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PP RUEHFK RUEHKS0 RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHOK #0470/01 2350733  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 230733Z AUG 06  
FM AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE  
TO RUHPOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7691  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0440  
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0142  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2245  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0130  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0151  
RUYNJDK/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA  
RUYNJMF/NAVCRIMINSERVFO FAREAST YOKOSUKA JA  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OSAKA KOBE 000470

SIPDIS

COMSEVENTHFLT PASS TO USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: WELCOME FOR USS JOHN S. MCCAIN, AUGUST 24th-AUGUST 28th  
VISIT TO HIMEJI

¶1. (U) Consulate General Osaka-Kobe welcomes the visit of the USS John S. McCain, scheduled for August 24 to August 28. We look forward to assisting the McCain again in any way we can to make this visit successful and enjoyable for all involved.

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Security Background Information  
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¶2. (SBU) Consulate General Osaka-Kobe has assisted with 12 ship visits in the last 6 years, most recently with the visit of the McCain to Sakaiminato. Our past ship visits have been successful in contributing to an improved atmosphere for naval exchanges in the Kansai region, and the recent Sakaiminato visit of the McCain drew wide support from the community, including City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce.

¶3. (SBU) The Consulate has made every effort to ensure the best possible berth for this visit, and has arranged for the McCain to dock at the Shikama berth of Himeji Port, which offers access to the city center.

¶4. (SBU) As of yet, no organizations have applied for demonstration permits to protest the McCain's arrival. The Consulate will provide additional information on scheduled demonstrations as it becomes available.

¶5. (SBU) In the past, the Consulate has received as many as 100 protest letters from organizations and individuals opposed to proposed visits. For the upcoming visit of the USS John S. McCain, the Consulate has received 7 protest letters to date. Port, Coast Guard and Police officials have been responsive to all security concerns raised by the Consulate.

¶6. (U) Himeji Port extends for 18 kilometers east to west, and serves as the pivotal port for the Harima Coastal Industrial Zone. Its primary industries are steel, oil, chemical and electrical energy and Himeji port activity is valuable to the economy of Japan as a whole.

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Regional Background  
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¶7. (U) Located on the southwestern side of Hyogo Prefecture, the seaport of Himeji is the hub port for the Harima Coastal Industrial

Zone. Himeji was founded in 1889 and is home to approximately 460,000 residents. The city rests between mountains (Mt. Masui, Mt. Hiromine and Mt. Shosha) to the north, and the Seto Inland Sea to the south. Himeji has flourished as a transportation and industrial center since its founding, assisted by its proximity to other larger economic and cultural centers, such as the cities of Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe.

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Access Information  
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18. (U) Himeji is internationally famous for its stunning castle, but for crew on liberty, Himeji Port also acts as the main gate to the Seto Inland Sea, to Ieshima Island, and to Shodoshima Island, popular with local tourists. At each of these locations, one can enjoy onsen (hot springs), hiking, kayaking and ample water sports. Additionally, Himeji is in the heart of vibrant Hyogo prefecture, approximately an hour from the port city of Kobe, and two hours from the metropolitan hub of Osaka, with connections to the tourist destinations in western and central Japan such as Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, Nagoya, etc.

19. (U) The Consulate has requested Himeji City provide English language tourist materials for the crew's reference.

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Schedule  
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110. (SBU) The current draft schedule for the USS John S. McCain's visit is as follows; we anticipate that detailed updates and changes will be necessary. They will be communicated via email and telephone

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by Consulate and CNFJ.

Day 1 (Thursday, August 24, 2006)

0900	Ship arrival alongside berth
0930-0945	Ship Welcome Ceremony
1000-1045	VIP ship tour
1030-1100	Press ship tour
1045-1100	Pre-press conference meeting
1100-1130	Press Event with CO, CG, PAO in Ward Room
1315-1335	Courtesy Call to Mr. Shunsuke Taniguchi President, Himeji Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1400-1420	Courtesy Call to Vice Mayor Toru Saga Himeji City Government
1320	Crew departs for comrel
1400-1530	Comrel at Taiyo Nursing Home in Himeji
1500	ACCJ Tour with 15 ACCJ Members
1800-2000	Onboard Reception

Day 2 (Friday, August 25, 2006)

1300	30 crew departs for comrel
1400-1600	Comrel at Enkyoji Temple (Last Samurai Temple)

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Points of Contact  
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11. (U) POCs at Consulate General Osaka-Kobe are as follows:

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